1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF12 North China AF12

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1c,
Sociological Background

POPULATION

I. DISTRIBUTION AND GROWTH

A. Total Figures

161 659 Based on the 1953 census carried out under the auspices of the Peking regime, the total population of North China amounts to 55,761,109.[1] The accuracy of this figure is open to question on the basis of one or both of the following facts: (1) The 1953 census-taking was not thorough and in certain areas where direct counting was not possible, undefined "indirect" methods (possibly estimates) were employed. (2) Before the results of the census were announced, responsible Communist quarters had begun a campaign to "correct the undesirable habit of filing false reports," and even the Bureau of Statistics had begun to criticize the lack of reliability in the statistical work of various government departments.[2] Until 1952, the estimates on China's population cited by the Communist officials were all under 500 million. Early in 1953, several months before the census figures were completely tabulated, the estimates

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[1] Kuang-ming Jih-pao [Enlightenment Daily], Peking, Nov. 1, 1954, p. 1.

[2] Editorial, Jen-min Jih-pao [People's Daily], Peking, Mar. 31, 1954, p. 1.

were stepped up to around 550 million. Thus there is ground for suspicion that the Peking government might have intentionally exaggerated the figures for propaganda purposes.[3]

However, until evidence is discovered to substantiate charges of fabrication, the figures in Table 1 will stand as the result of the first and only direct nation-wide census. Relative reliability is further strengthened by the following considerations: (1) They generally tally with the figures on the electoral delegates and the voters they represented in the "basic-level election" (see chapter on Structure of Government) for which the census was initiated.[4] (2) Scattered reports on the basic-level elections are available roughly covering all parts of China; this fact should serve to indicate the geographic extent, if not the degree of thoroughness with which the census was carried out. And thoroughness is unprecedented in China. (3) The Communists as far back as 1949 had begun their study on population, and it appears possible that the Peking regime had done some checking of the 1953 census against the figures previously released. (4) Only a comparatively small percentage of the 1953 population figures (about 8 million) was derived from the so-called "indirect method of

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[3] Tsui-chin Ch'i-koytieh Lai Chung-yao Fei-Ch'ing Tsung-ho Pao-kao [Comprehensive Report on Important Developments in Communist China in the Past Seven Months] ,Taipei, 6th Section, Central Committee, Nationalist Party, 1954, p. 23.

Yuan-li Wu, An Economy Survey of Communist China, New York, Bookman Associates, 1956, p. 13.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF12 North China AF12

census-taking." (5) The above-cited communique also reported on the review of these figures by the Bureau of Statistics. After rechecking 9 per cent (or 52, 950, 000) of the total population in a cross-section of many different localities, duplicates amount to only 0. 139 per cent and those uncounted in the initial registration only 0. 25 per cent.

It should be mentioned that the term "North China" is used here to refer to a region in the northern part of China which has been of varying size at different times, and changes in provincial boundaries have affected the figures representing the population in this region. Considerable discrepancy is to be expected between any previous work on China's and our study, if different regional point of view is followed. 5/

B. Distribution and Density

The announcement of the results of the 1953 census gives figures by provinces and municipalities. It is to be noted, however, that the figure for Hopei Province does not include that portion of Jehol Province which was incorporated into Hopei at the end of July 1955.

5/ See chapter on Geographical Setting.

625 fidential information), public peace and order
633 administration, crimial police, sanitation, fire prevention, general service and supply, and personnel. Other functions under the bureau include the administration of prisons, detention houses, and "Reform-through-labor" camps as well as the training of security cadres and forces. Subsidiary to the bureau, ch'ü sub-bureaus and security sub-stations have been established. The organization of the sub-bureau is as elaborate as the bureau itself. The sub-bureau is charged with the supervising of detention houses and directing the work of security stations and security committees under them.

•659 In the North China Region, ribid census-
625 control was established in July 1951 by a directive issued by the Government Administration Council.[30] Any resident who wished to move had to obtain beforehand a permit from a local security station. Any person who moved into a new district had to report to the local station. Even house guests staying three days or more had to be registered. The nationwide census in 1953 placed urban residents under stricter surveillance. In 1955, a rigid system of registration increased the already established restrictions upon the people.[31]

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30. Chang-chiang Jih-pao [Yangtze Daily], Hankow, July 18, 1951, p. 4.

31. Enlightenment Daily, Peking, April 2, 1955, p. 1.

2: Gamble S-5 (1926-1933) 1954 AF 12 North China AF 12

There were 2,169 families in the city, and 67,865 in the 453 "villages" and "towns".

The number of families in the individual villages ranged from six to 1,200. Twenty per cent of the villages had less than 50 families, 46 per cent had less than 100 families, and 75 per cent had less than 200 families. Only seven, 1.5 per cent, had as many as 500 families. The average was 150 families per village, or 154 families if the hsien city is included.

The following figures show how the villages and families were divided in the six administrative districts of the hsien.

District	*Villages*	*Families*	*Average No. of Families per Village*	*Average No. of Mu per Family*
1	71	6,555	92	23.8
2	63	8,062	128	22.8
3	83	15,939	192	21.5
4	73	16,010	220	19.7
5	73	7,864	108	19.1
6	90	13,435	149	19.8
City	—	2,169	—	6.2
	453	70,034	150	20.4

It will be noted that in the different districts the number of villages varied from 63 to 90, the number of families from 6,555 to 16,010, and the average number of families per village from 92 to 220. We have not been able to find any reason for the wide variation in the averages. There were four market towns in the 4th District, the one with the largest average, but while there were two market towns in both the 3rd and the 5th District the average in the 5th District was 50 per cent more than in the 3rd. There was no market town in the 1st District as the city was its market center. If the city and 1st District are added together the average was 121 families per "village".

In contrast to the wide variation in the average number of families per village, there was only a small difference in the average amount of crop area per family in the six districts. It ranged from 19.1 mu in the 5th District to 23.8 mu in the 1st District. The average for the entire hsien, including the city and its three suburbs, was 20.2 mu per family.

A complete study of any part of the Chinese population is a difficult

2: Gamble S-5 (1926-1933)1954 AF 12 North China AF 12

task. The people, especially those living in the country, are fearful lest the figures be used as a basis for taxation or for the recruiting of soldiers and laborers for the army, or laborers for public works projects such as dyke and road building. Reports given to Government enumerators are often very incomplete and sometimes attempts have been made to "persuade" the census takers, counting not individuals but families, to send in figures much below the actual number.

Our investigators naturally met some of this same suspicion when they were counting the families and still greater difficulties when securing detailed reports from individual families. Boys were sometimes omitted lest information about them make it possible to cast their horoscope and exert an evil influence over them; young men because of possible military service. Young girls would be left out because some families feel they do not amount to much; unmarried women because it was felt that the fact that they were unmarried reflected on the family. These difficulties were overcome, at least partially, by the fact that the study was made by representatives of the Mass Education Movement, and the matter had been discussed beforehand with the village heads in order to clear up any misunderstandings and obtain their active help and cooperation. In many villages they accompanied the investigators from house to house, and their knowledge of the individual families often made it possible for them to remind the family heads of some members that they had "overlooked". In one town we counted 200 more families than the official figure.

A "family" in this study included the present members of the family and the absent relatives who shared in the family budget. A person living alone was counted as a one-person "family." Employees were not included as they were listed with their own families.

Our population figures were secured by an extensive study of the number of families living in the hsien and by intensive studies of five different groups of families that together included 8,464 families and 49,609 individuals. Two of the studies were definite population studies. In the others securing the figures on the size of the families was incidental to the collection of other material.

The groups of families, their location, the number of families and persons included, the date of the study, the size of the average family, and the masculinity rate (males per 100 females) were:

6:Young et. al. E-5 (1928-1929) 1930 AF12 North China AF12

employs 13 guards. Owing to its larger area, and the protection which it receives from the Peping municipal government the expenses of the Association are much smaller, amounting tc only 15 cents for the past year. 241 625

4. The Farmers' Union.

As in the case of the Merchants' Union, the Farmers' Union is an organisation for the whole district, and is created under the direction of the Party authorities, with the difference that although the Merchants' Union has gained a footing in Ching Ho the Farmers' Union has not been able to take the place of the powerful Association for the Protection of Green Grops, and is therefore, only a district Association, and has not affected Ching Ho itself. 241 625 659

The Farmers' Union has had a long history in the southern provinces, but its first appearance in Ching Ho was in November 1928 when the local Party authorities summoned together the heads and associates of the seventeen villages in the east region of the Fifth district of Wan Ping. The Chairman of the county Party came down to make a speech, and appointed five directors, together with one member from the local Party organisation, to start a local Farmers' Union. The chief work appears to have been done by this local member who has spent much time in the villages, calling together mass meetings of the family heads, and explaining to them the advantages to be obtained by organising into such a Union. If they are unfriendly he has had to try to persuade the farmers personally. After he has obtain-

6:Young et. al. E-5 (1928-1929) 1930 AF12 North China AF12

241 625 659

ed enough support he takes along a policeman, calls a meeting of the farmers, and the Union is started. After about one month's work this man has been successful in organising eight village Unions into the Fifth district Union, but he was not able to get the support of Ching Ho, and the membership in the other village is very small, amounting to only about 12% of the families. The membership of the eight village Unions is as follows :—

TABLE XLIV. MEMBERSHIP OF FARMERS' UNIONS

ORDER OF UNION	TOTAL MEMBERS
1st	18
2nd	18
3rd	18
4th	11
5th	23
6th	18
7th	11
8th	35
Total	152

Each Union is supposed to support itself financially, and to pay something in support of the district Union, but in most cases they have simply taken the position of the Association for the Protection of Groen Crops with its power of charging the land owners, so

6:Young et. al. E-5 (1928-1929) 1930 AF12 North China AF12

that really the new Unions are simply the old Association under a new name and new managment. 241 625 659

Since the student trouble all Party members have left the town, together with the organiser and his associates. No new Union has since been created, and it is doutbful whether the new leaders can hold their power for very long in face of the indifference of the people, and the reaction in favour of the leaders of the old association.